

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 20434 131813Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 USIE-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-07
FEAE-00 DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 FRB-03 EURE-00
H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 AID-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 STR-04
OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 /118 W
-----039416 131830Z /45

P R 131806Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5661
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY; GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, FR, SF
SUBJECT: FRANCE TO BUY 1,000 TONS SOUTH AFRICAN
NATURAL URANIUM

1. A CONTRACT IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN SIGNED BY
COMPAGNIE GENERALE DES MATIERES NUCLEAIRES (COGEMA),
AN OFFSHOOT OF THE COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE
(CEA), AND THE RANDFONTEIN STATES OF SOUTH AFRICA.
FRANCE, ACCORDING TO JOURNALISTIC SOURCES, WILL
FINANCE EQUIPMENT IN THE RANDFONTEIN MINE BY AN
INTEREST-FREE LOAN OF 103 MILLION DOLLARS IN THREE
INCREMENTS FROM JANUARY 1977 TO JULY 1978. THE LOAN
WILL BE REPAYED BEGINNING IN 1983 AND THE DELIVERIES
OF URANIUM WILL COMMENCE IN 1980 AT THE ADVANTAGEOUS
PRICE OF 27 DOLLARS FOR A POUND OF OXIDE.

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2. EMBASSY SOURCES DO NOT MAKE CLEAR WHETHER THIS
URANIUM WILL COME FROM SOUTH AFRICA DIRECTLY OR FROM
AMIBIA. IN LATTER AREA PRINCIPAL DEPOSIT IS THE
ROSSINGI WHERE THE FRENCH MINING AND NUCLEAR COMPANY,
TOTAL, IS. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS URANIUM MIGHT
WELL COME FROM BOTH SOURCES.

3. COMMENT: FRANCE PROBABLY WILL BE SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM SIMPLY ON THE BASIS OF PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE ALLEGED CONTRACT. IF THE REPORTS ARE CONFIRMED, A VERITABLE STORM WILL BREAK OVER FRENCH HEADS. LE MATIN, FOR ONE, ALREADY HAS REMINDED ITS READERS THAT FRANCE IS ALSO SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADING ARMS SUPPLIER AND HAS SPECULATED THAT URANIUM FOR ARMS EXPLAINS WHY FRANCE, DESPITE GISCARD'S PROCLAMATIONS, IS FAR FROM ENFORCING A TOTAL ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. SUCH A DEAL WOULD BOTH UNDERLINE FRENCH DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE NUCLEAR INDEPENDENCE AND INCREASE AFRICAN SUSPICIONS THAT THE WESTERN FIVE ARE INSINCERE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS20434
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Executive Order: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: TECH, FR, SF
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Type: TE
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